

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Kindly revise the claims of record, in the manner set forth hereinafter.

CLAIMS:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) Apparatus for inducing a coughing reflex in a person or animal, said apparatus including at least one ultrasonic transducer adapted to be placed in contact with a region of the neck of the person or animal, and ultrasonic wave generation means for producing ultrasonic vibrations in said transducer of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue of the neck whereby to stimulate the pharynx and cause a reflexive coughing response in said person or animal.

12. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein said ultrasonic wave generation means comprises an electrical oscillator and wherein said at least one transducer is adapted to produce mechanical vibrations in response to an electrical input from said oscillator.

13. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 and including a transducer array of at least two separate said transducers, said transducers in said array being held in positions and orientations which maximise contact with said neck region.

14. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13 and including a support for said transducers, said transducers being spaced along said support

15. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said support comprises a flexible mount whereby said transducers are flexibly mounted relative to one another.

16. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said transducers are mounted to said support by flexible mounting means whereby said transducers are flexibly mounted relative to one another.

17. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 and including adjustment means between said transducers and said support whereby the position of the transducers relative to one another may be adjusted to suit a particular neck.

18. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 and including a main body housing said ultrasonic generation means, said support being mounted to said main body.

19. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 and including an applicator assembly including said support and said transducers, said applicator assembly being detachably mounted to said main body.

20. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said support comprises an arcuate member and wherein said transducers comprise a pair of transducers arranged at spaced apart positions along said member.

21. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and including contact sensing means for determining the quality of the contact between said at least one transducer and said neck, and contact indicating means for indicating when good contact has been made.

22. (Currently amended) A method of inducing a reflexive coughing response in a person or animal, said method including the steps of providing ultrasonic wave generation means, said ultrasonic wave generation means having an active portion, operating said ultrasonic wave generation means to produce for

~~producing~~ ultrasonic vibrations in said active portion of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue, ~~said ultrasonic wave generation means having an active portion,~~ and applying the active portion of said wave generation means to a selected region of the neck of a person or animal such that said ultrasonic vibrations penetrate at least to a limited extent the soft tissue portion of the neck and cause whereby a desired said reflexive coughing response ~~may be achieved.~~

23. (Currently amended) Apparatus for inducing a coughing reflex in a person or animal, said apparatus including:

an elongated main body;

an applicator assembly comprising

a transducer support mounted to one end of said main body, and

at least one ultrasonic transducer on said transducer support adapted to be placed in contact with a region of the neck of the person or animal; and

an ultrasonic wave generator in said main body and connected to said at least one ultrasonic transducer for producing ultrasonic vibrations in said at least one transducer of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue of the neck whereby to stimulate the pharynx and cause a reflexive coughing response in said person or animal.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 ~~24~~ wherein said main body supports an ~~said~~ actuation switch comprising ~~comprises~~ a two stage switch and wherein a first stage actuation of said switch causes low-powered ultrasonic waves to be emitted from said at least one transducer and wherein a second stage actuation of said switch causes higher-powered ultrasonic waves to be emitted by said at least one transducer.

26. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 and including a contact quality indicator ~~on said transducer support~~ for indicating contact between said at least one transducer and said neck.

27. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein said transducer support carries a pair of ultrasonic transducers spaced apart along said support.

28. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein said transducer support comprises an arcuate member having a concave side and a convex side, said arcuate member having central attachment means on said convex side for mounting said member to said main body and wherein said transducers are arranged symmetrically on opposite sides of said attachment means.

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) Apparatus for inducing a coughing reflex in a person or animal, said apparatus including:

an elongated main body for holding by the hand;

an applicator assembly mounted to one end of said main body, said applicator assembly comprising

an arcuate transducer support,

ultrasonic transducers supported at spaced apart positions along said transducer support and adapted to be placed in contact with spaced regions of the neck of the person or animal; and

an ultrasonic wave generator in said main body and connected to said ultrasonic transducer for producing ultrasonic vibrations in said transducers of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue of the neck_whereby to stimulate a reflexive coughing response in said person or animal.

31. (New) Hand-held apparatus for inducing a coughing reflex in a person or animal, said apparatus including at least one ultrasonic transducer, an ultrasonic wave generation means for producing ultrasonic vibrations in said transducer of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue of the neck, said at least one ultrasonic transducer being adapted to be placed in contact with a region of the neck of a person or animal such that said ultrasonic vibrations of said at least one transducer can penetrate said soft body tissue of said neck whereby to stimulate a reflexive coughing response in said person or animal.

32. (New) Hand-held apparatus as claimed in claim 31 and including means for switching said ultrasonic wave generation means between a first mode in which said at least one transducer generates lower power ultrasonic vibrations for use in detecting good contact with the neck and a second mode in which said at least one transducer generates higher power ultrasonic vibrations for use in stimulating said reflexive coughing response.